

DETENTION ADMISSIONS AND SPECIAL DETENTION POPULATIONS
GUIDING PRINCIPLES
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Admissions policies, practices and instruments must be based upon a clear understanding that the purpose of secure detention use is to promote public safety, and is limited to minors who present the risk of failure to appear at subsequent court hearing, and/or the risk of committing additional delinquent acts during pendency of the current case.

Effective admissions practices are based on using the least restrictive alternative necessary to ensure the juvenile appears in court and remains arrest-free pending adjudication.

Effective admissions policies and practices rely on objective criteria to distinguish between youth who are likely to flee and/or commit additional delinquent acts during pendency of the current case, and those who are not.

Good admissions practices rely on a structured decision-making process to ensure timely, consistent screening: Clear designation of responsibility, specific time frames, supervisory review, and high-quality documentation are necessary components of good admissions practices.

Valid and timely data are essential to the design, implementation, and sustainability of effective admissions practices that are continuously refined, based upon data, to maximize detention use success.

Effective implementation of objective admissions practices requires the involvement of and acceptance by the system's key stakeholders and line staff, reinforced through routine reports and other forms of feedback.

An objective admissions system requires constant monitoring and quality control – through automated screening instruments, routine data analyses, and supervisory oversight - to track both the consistency of intake decisions and the accuracy of the assessments.

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